BOROUGH OF
KIDWELLY.

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health.

YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER, 1938.

BURRY PORT:
Haydn Woodliffe, Printer, Red Dragon Press.
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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1938.

TO THE KIDWELLY TOWN COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended Dec. 31st, 1938.

SECTION A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Borough.

1. (a) Your district covers an area of ... ... 2,844 acres.
   (b) Population (Registrar General's estimate, 1938) .. 2,952.
   (c) Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) ... 789.
   Number of families or seperate occupiers ... 819.
   (d) Rateable Value (Reduced) ... ... £7,604.
   (e) Sum represented by a Penny Rate on R.R.V. ... £28.
   (f) The inhabitants are chiefly occupied, when working, in the various industries which include a Tinplate Works, Brickworks and Quarries. Many are employed as Colliers in the Gwendraeth Valley. There is farming in parts of the Borough.

Unemployment. The average number of unemployed for the year was 598 weekly, out of an insurable population of 1,250, which is equivalent to 47·84% unemployed.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.	
(g)	Live Births: Legitimate	32	20	12	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14·80.
	Live Births: Illegitimate	2	1	1	
(h)	Still Births ...	4	2	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 105·27.
(i)	Deaths ...	33	18	15	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11·18.

(j) Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis ...	Nil.	Nil.
Other puerperal causes	Nil.	Nil.
Total	Nil.	Nil.

(k) Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—
All Infants per 1,000 live births—52·63.
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—29·41.
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—500·03.

(l) Cancer (all ages)—4.

(m) Deaths from Measles (all ages)—Nil.
(n) Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—Nil.
(o) Deaths from Diarrhœa (under two years of age)—Nil.

SECTION B.—General Provision of Health Services.

1. (i) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :
D. BEYNON DAVIES, M.B., CH.B.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER :
J. E. VAUGHAN EVANS, F.S.I., M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E.

(ii) (a) **Laboratory Facilities.** Pathological and Bacteriological work, i.e., all swabs, etc., are sent to the Beck Laboratory, Swansea, under the Directorship of Dr. A. F. Sladden, and to Dr. L. W. Pole, M.O.H., Llanelly.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.** All infectious cases are conveyed to Hospitals by the Carmarthenshire County Council Ambulance.

There are St. John's Ambulance Stations at Llanelly, Trimsaran and Tumble. These ambulances are used in this Area. No contribution is made towards their maintenance. A contributory scheme is now in force.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.** (*a*) This is done by Nurse Morgan, C.M.B. There is no co-ordination with the County Council. (*b*) Infectious diseases. On account of the danger involved the District Nurse undertakes to communicate with me before she attends on any case of infectious disease, i.e., Tracheotomy in Diphtheria, etc.

(d) **Orthopaedic.** There is no Orthopaedic Clinic at Kidwelly. but special cases are seen at the Burry Port Memorial Hall & Institute.

Tuberculosis. Cases of Tuberculosis requiring X-Ray are dealt with at the T.B. Clinic, Greenfield Villas, Llanelly. The Tuberculosis Officer is Dr. Martin P. Thomas, who attends on Mondays and Thursdays, and examines and reports on all cases sent to him. Suitable cases are sent to the various Sanatoria. Dr. Thomas will also visit patients at their homes by arrangement with General Practitioners. Reports of the cases are sent by the County M.O.H. to the Local Officer.

(e) Llanelly and Swansea Hospitals are supported by Voluntary Contributions. They are not subsidised by the County Council.

Llanelly Hospital. Beds : Males 34; Females 34; Children 8; Eye Cases 1 or 2.

Practically all the workmen make periodical contributions, i.e., deductions from wages towards Hospitals, also towards Eye Specialist, and Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist.

Insured and uninsured persons are now able to obtain the services of the Llanelly and District Public Medical Service at fixed rates governed by their incomes.

There is an Isolation Hospital at Llannon controlled by the Carmarthenshire County Council. The accommodation is as follows :—

Scarlet Fever, 18 beds.
Diphtheria, 18 beds
Various Sundry Diseases, 8 beds.

2. (i) **Llanelly Infirmary.** Beds : Males 28 ; Females 74; Children 37. Maternity Ward : 2 and 1 Cot. The Medical Officer in charge is Dr. Oscar Williams, Llanelly.

(ii) **Public Assistance.** The Officers in the Area are :—D.M.O., Dr. W. David Williams ; and Public Vaccination Officer and Relieving Officer, Mr. Ernest Stone, 32, Springfield Terrace, Burry Port.

(iii) **Home for Mental Defectives.** At Pantglas there is accommodation for mentally defective children. This is administered by the Joint Counties Board. There is accommodation for 170 girls over seven years of age. All cases under seven years of age have to be sent to the Joint Counties Mental Hospital, Carmarthen.

3. (i) **Midwives.** There is no County Midwife resident in the area—all cases are dealt with by Nurse M. A. Morgans, C.M.B., the District Nurse.

Maternity Mortality. Investigation of Maternal Deaths on the lines of a circular recently issued are carried out by the County Council. In cases of Puerperal Fever the County Council immediately wire to Midwife attending to
(1). Give up attendance on all cases on her list except case notified.
(2). Not to take further cases until further notification.

(ii) **Institutional Provision for Mothers and Children.** There is no Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate and homeless children. Suitable cases are sent to the Llanelly Infirmary.

(iii) **Health Visiting.** A Child Welfare Centre is held in the English Methodist Church fortnightly. It is subsidised by the local Nursing Association and the County Council. The Welfare is under my jurisdiction. Nurse M. A. Morgans, C.M.B., is the whole-time Health Visitor and School Nurse, and attends at the Welfare Centre. She is engaged by the County Council.

The Kidwelly Nursing Association is maintained by contributions and subscriptions. It is not affiliated to the County Council.

The District Nurse is Nurse. M. A. Morgan, C.M.B. Application for the Nurse's services is made through the local Doctors.

(iv) **Nursing Homes.** There are none in the Borough.

(v) **Children.** There is a Children's Ward at Llanelly Hospital, where children are received up to eight years of age.

Child Neglect. Inspector James of the N.S.P.C.C. renders help to the County. He as been the means of securing Orthopaedic Treatment, obtaining better accommodation for families living under bad conditions and placing them in Institutions of the County Council.

(vi) **Orthopaedic.** A scheme is under the control of the County Council, and is based on the co-operation of the Educational and Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities. Cases are referred by the Child Welfare Clinic, School M.O.H. and Health Visitor to Mr. A. O. Parker, at his Clinic in Llanelly. Treatment is continued at the Burry Port Orthopaedic Clinic held weekly at the Burry Port Memorial Hall & Institute.

SECTION C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) **Water.** The Town's supply is obtained from wells in different parts of the district, and from deep-seated springs, tapped and delivered by cast-iron mains to the Town.

The Millands Supply. This supply was used constantly from March 31st to May 18th. The Council are considering the laying of a new 3 inch rising main from Millands to Capel Sul reservoir, which will give the following advantages :—

(1) The Chlorination plant to be installed at Capel Sul will serve both supplies.

(2) The water from Millands will be pumped into the storage reservoir and not into the service main as at present.

Capel Sul Well. This yields a minimum supply of about 20,000 gallons per 24 hours. The water is carried in mains and distributed to most of the houses in the Town. The storage is 30,000 gallons.

Maesgwenllian Supply. This is from deep-seated springs tapped in a disused Silver Mine adit level, giving a minimum supply of about 25,000 gallons in 24 hours. There is storage for 10,000 gallons.

Mynyddygarreg Supply. With the aid of hydraulic rams this gives a minimum flow of 8,000 gallons per 24 hours. There is storage for 3,000 gallons.

(ii) **Drainage and Sanitation.** The Council have approved a scheme to utilize the existing surface water drains as sewers and to connect them to the new 12" main sewer which will run from the junction of Bridge Street and Station Road to an outfall near the Hillfield septic tank.

This work will be commenced in 1939.

2. **Rivers and Streams.** There was no flooding in Lady Street nor Bridge Street. The pollution of the Gwendraeth Fach River has not recurred.

3. (i) **Closet Accommodation.** There are 45 houses connected to the Hillfield Sewer which discharges into a septic tank near Morfa Mawr Embankment. There are 126 houses which have water closets discharging into cesspools. In the remaining houses the night-soil is buried in the gardens by the occupiers. There are 118 cesspools in the Borough.

Public Convenience. It is proposed to erect a public convenience in Station Road in the near future. The land has been acquired and a tender has been accepted.

(ii) **Scavenging.** House refuse is collected weekly and is tipped on the Morfa Mawr Embankment. This helps materially to strengthen the bank. A portion of the bank was broken down by high tides in the spring of 1938.

(iii) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.** See Section D, page 9.

(iv) **Shops.** No action was considered necessary under Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934.

(v) **Smoke Abatement.** Smoke does not give rise to any nuisance.

(vi) **Swimming Baths and Pools.** There are no such baths in the Borough but a considerable amount of sea-bathing is enjoyed during the summer by the inhabitants.

(vii) **Eradication of bed bugs.**

(1) The number of Council houses infested—Nil.

Other houses—2.

Number disinfested—2.

(2) When necessary, disinfestation is carried out by using "Cescones" and spraying with "Vermoose" and "Zaldecide."

(3) When persons are moved to Council houses their furniture and bedding is first fumigated when considered necessary.

(4) the work of disinfestation is done by the Council's employees.

(5) The whole of the clothing and bedding are burnt to prevent infestation or reinfestation after cleansing.

4. **Schools.** The four Schools in the Borough are elementary. They are kept in a sanitary condition. The water supply is from the Council's main, and is satisfactory.

The Schools Medical Officer is Dr. Gladys Herbert and the Schools Dentist is Mr. G. Ungoed Griffiths, L.D.S., R.C.S., and I work in conjunction with them. It has not been necessary to close the Schools on account of any epidemic. As suggested in a memorandum on Closure and Exclusion from School 1927 the power to exclude any individual children and contacts is used to the best advantage.

62 children from the Borough attend Burry Port Central School. They are conveyed to and from school by bus.

Health and Education. Lectures are given periodically on infant feeding, ante-natal hygiene, etc.

Rag Flock Acts 1911 and 1928. There are no premises where Rag Flock is manufactured.

Mortuary. Three Post Mortem examinations were held in the Council's Mortuary, as compared with five in the previous year.

Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses.

Number inspected—8.
Number certified for limewashing by Inspector—1.

(v) **Camping Sites.**

(1) The number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes in 1938—Nil.

(2) The number of camping sites in respect of which licenses have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936—Nil.

(3) The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1938,—Nil.

SECTION D.—Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	789
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	789
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 & 1932	23
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	23
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	9
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local authority or their officers	6
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
(a).—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	10
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	6
(a) By owners	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil.
(b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil.
(c).—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
(d).—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	Nil.
4. **Housing Act, 1936, Part iv.—Overcrowding :—**	
(a).— (i) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year	11
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	13
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	41½
(b).—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil.
(c).— (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	8
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	27½
(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil.

Housing Generally. The Council have built 32 houses under the Housing Acts ; 9 for the removal of families from demolished houses and 23 for the relief of overcrowding. The Council have under consideration the building of a further 20 houses.

There were 5 houses built by private enterprise.

SECTION E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) **Milk Supply.** There are 20 registered Milk Vendors in the area.

Licences are granted on the lines of the Milk and Dairies Order 1926. No licences have been issued under the Milk Special Designation order 1936.

Examinations of all registered premises with regard to cow sheds and dairies are made by the Surveyor and myself. Several of the cow sheds have received attention and have been rebuilt on model plans, and supplied with water direct from Council's mains.

The dairies are kept in a very good condition and particular attention is paid to cans and utensils.

Under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts County Inspectors take samples of milk for examination in regard to addition of water and percentage of fat.

26 samples of Milk were taken and sent for bacteriological examination. The examinations were made at Aberystwyth under the control of Mr. S. B. Thomas, M.Sc., Advisor of Dairy Agriculture. The results on the whole show an improvement each year.

The Farmers and Vendors are instructed in the methods of clean milking and clean milk. Sutherland Thompson's milk test is used and the pads are shown to the Farmers or Vendors.

16 samples were submitted for tuberculosis examination, all of which were found to be negative.

Butter and Cheese Makers. There 31 are in the district and premises are kept very clean.

(b) **Meat, &c.** Bakehouses, Shops and Vehicles are regularly inspected and always kept under observation.

Slaughterhouse. Public Abattoir. This is the Council's property and a part-time Caretaker is employed.

The Council has issued one renewal licence to a Slaughterman under the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933.

There are no licenced slaughterhouses in the district.

The total tolls for the year were £52/8/6 as compared with £59/14/6 for the previous year, being a decrease of £7/6/0.

Ante and Post Mortem Examinations. This is done by the Caretaker who is a part-time employee.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	—	166	95	762	286
Number inspected	—	166	95	762	286
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	0·60	—	—	—

Public Health Meat Regulations are complied with.

(c) **Adulteration, etc.** No action has been necessary under the various powers.

(d) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.** When necessary samples are examined by the Beck Laboratory, Swansea.

(e) **Nutrition.** Advantage is taken at the Welfare Centre of instructing mothers as to the value of nutrition.

(f) **Shell-fish (Molluscan).** There are no Shell-fish beds in the district.

SECTION F.—Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

(2) Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied at the Council's expense when necessary, but owing to the immediate admission of cases of Diphtheria to the County Isolation Hospital, few cases receive antitoxin before admission. Only one case was notified during the year which was admitted to the County Isolation Hospital, Tumble.

There have been no cases of Malaria or Dysentry notified during the year.

According to Infectious Diseases Regulation 1927, a supply of Forms are provided for notification of Malaria, Dysentry, Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations 1917. Disinfection of premises and articles exposed to infection is carried out by the Council.

Non-notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases. There were no deaths from Influenza.

No advantage has been taken by parents with regard to Diphtheria immunization.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	3	Nil.	Nil.
Diphtheria ...	1	1	Nil.
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Pneumonia ..	7	Nil.	2
Erysipelas ...	3	Nil.	Nil.
Ophthalmic Neonatorum ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

4 (a) **Prevention of Blindness.** No action was necessary under Section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936.

(b) **Public Health Act 1936, Section 172 (Prevention of Tuberculosis).** Steps would be taken to prevent persons suffering from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory Tract from participating in the Milk Trade. No action was necessary.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925. There have been no cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis which have refused Sanatorium treatment and who are not in suitable surroundings, thus avoiding risk of conveying infection.

5. TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 1 5 15 25 35 45 55 65	1	3						
Totals	1	3						

Birth-Rates, Death-Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938.

England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
	Rates per 1,000 Population.			
Births :—				
Live	15·1	15·0	15·4	13·4
Still	0·60	0·65	0·60	0·48
Deaths :—				
All Causes	11·6	11·7	11·0	11·4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Smallpox	0·00	—	0.00	—
Measles	0·04	0·05	0·03	0·06
Scarlet Fever	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01
Whooping Cough ...	0·03	0·03	0·02	0·03
Diphtheria	0·07	0·07	0·06	0·05
Influenza	0·11	0·10	0·11	0·06
Notifications :—				
Smallpox	0·00	0·00	0·00	—
Scarlet Fever	2·41	2·60	2·58	2·05
Diphtheria	1·58	1.85	1·53	1·90
Enteric Fever	0·03	0·03	0·04	0·05
Erysipelus...	0·40	0·46	0·39	0·46
Pneumonia	1·10	1·28	1·98	0·98
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 year of age...	53	57	51	57
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5·5	7·8	3·6	13·1
Maternal Mortality :—				
Puerperal Sepsis	0·89	Not available		
Others	2·19			
Total	3·08			
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., Live and Still).			
Maternal Mortality :—				
Puerperal Sepsis	0·86	Not available		
Others	2·11			
Total	2·97			
Notifications :—				
Puerperal Fever ...	14·42	18·08	12·51	3·53
Puerperal Pyrexia				15·46

Causes of Death in the Kidwelly Borough, 1938.

CIVILIANS ONLY.

Causes of Death.		Males.	Females.
All Causes		18	15
Other digestive diseases		—	1
Acute and chronic nephritis		2	2
Congenital debility and Premature births		1	1
Senility		1	3
Other violence		1	—
Other defined diseases		2	2
Diabetes		1	—
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.		—	1
Heart disease		2	1
Bronchitis		2	—
Pneumonia (all forms)		1	1
Other respiratory diseases		3	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years		—	—
Appendicitis		—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system		—	—
Cancer		2	2
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Legitimate	—	1
	Illegitimate	1	—
	Total	1	1
Live Births	Legitimate	20	12
	Illegitimate	1	1
	Total	21	13
Stillbirths	Legitimate	2	2
	Illegitimate	—	—
	Total	2	2
Population		2,952	
Comparability Factor		1·13	

General Register Office,
Somerset House,
London, W.C.2.

May, 1939.

We remain,
Your obedient Servants,

D. BEYNON DAVIES, M.O.H.,
J. E. VAUGHAN EVANS, Sanitary Inspector.